

REPLACE NAFTA WITH USMCA

(Mrs. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my hope and expectation that the Trump administration and Congress will resolve the few outstanding issues so that Congress can take a strong bipartisan vote to modernize NAFTA, our outdated trade agreement with Canada and Mexico, and replace it with USMCA, a better agreement that will benefit America's workers, farmers, businesses, and families, while also fortifying our relationship with our two closest neighbors.

As a member of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, I believe well-negotiated trade agreements can improve our economy and our security, but I also know poorly negotiated trade pacts can hurt America's workers and make it harder to maintain broad-based support for the concept of freer and fairer trade.

USMCA fixes flaws in some NAFTA chapters based on the lessons we have learned since NAFTA was enacted in 1994. It also adds new chapters to reflect the reality that the world has undergone major changes in the last 25 years.

I support the deliberative and productive negotiations taking place between the administration and House Democrats. I think both sides are working in good faith with the shared goal of getting the best possible agreement over the finish line. Each side realizes inaction is not an option because NAFTA must be revised.

I also support bipartisan and bicameral efforts by the Florida delegation to protect our farmers who grow seasonal produce from unfair competition.

When it comes to USMCA, it is important we move swiftly and with a sense of urgency, but it is just as important that we get this right.

SUPPORT TRICARE FAIRNESS FOR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE RETIREES

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight H.R. 5169, the TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act that I introduced with Representative GABBARD earlier today.

This bipartisan bill aligns the eligibility age for TRICARE Standard, Extra, and Prime, which are the healthcare programs for uniformed servicemembers, retirees, and their families, with the age at which National Guard and Reserve personnel begin receiving their retired pay.

We have heavily relied upon our National Guard and Reserve personnel for

the past 20 years, and they have made major contributions to our force structure for over 200 years.

Congress previously recognized their sacrifices by lowering the age that they can receive their retired pay based on their Active Duty service, but it is not fair that their eligibility for traditional TRICARE was left at age 60. This has resulted in early retirees often spending the vast majority, if not all, of their pension on TRICARE premiums until they reach 60.

This bill will help these servicemembers transition into retirement as intended when Congress reduced their retirement age. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

FINALIZE USMCA

(Ms. SPANBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, Canada and Mexico are two of the Commonwealth's largest trading partners. In 2018 alone, Virginia exported \$4.3 billion worth of goods to our northern and southern neighbors.

Last month, in Chesterfield County, I sat down with local businesses, business leaders, and members of the Chamber of Commerce to talk about how the USMCA could strengthen export opportunities and spur economic growth for businesses in our area. Cattlemen and dairies, farmers, and producers across my central Virginia district care deeply about the certainty and stability afforded by a trade deal. Amid ongoing USMCA discussions, my constituents want and need the long-term certainty of a trade deal between our three countries.

I thank the congressional working group for its productive efforts to arrive at a deal that meets the needs of our farmers, producers, small businesses, medium-sized businesses, and American workers.

We need House negotiators and the administration to come to a final agreement. We need to get this done and deliver trade stability for our constituents back home in my central Virginia district and across the country.

PASS USMCA WITHOUT DELAY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, my colleague from Virginia, on the other side of the aisle, just gave my speech.

The USMCA is a very important document, a very important measure, that we need to pass without delay. Our trade with Mexico and Canada, our two most important trade partners in the world, needs to be secure so that we can start doing more business with them.

It will be great for much in agriculture, our dairies, forestry, auto

parts, and California wine to have the stability of this. It will also show the rest of the world that we are ready to do business and negotiate better deals with Japan, China, and others.

Let's get this done. Let's not have the USMCA vote held up any longer or have it become leverage for other things.

I ask Speaker PELOSI to please bring this to the floor because I think we can get many votes on both sides of the aisle and pass this right away.

□ 1530

LET'S GET THE USMCA DONE

(Mr. MCADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, for weeks we have heard that action on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement is eminently doable. So why haven't we gotten it done?

It is time to put politics aside and to come together for the future of our countries and our people.

NAFTA went into effect in 1994. It was due for modernization. By all reasonable accounts, USMCA represents progress for farms and ranchers, for autoworkers, for medical device manufacturers, and others.

This is a multitrillion-dollar economic relationship between the United States and our two neighbors. It supports millions of American jobs. In Utah alone, trade with Mexico and Canada supports over 120,000 jobs, jobs that pay the rent, that provide healthcare, that send kids to college and help Utahns save for retirement. Over \$418 million worth of agricultural exports are sent from Utah to our North American neighbors each year.

We were elected to move forward on priorities that matter to people's everyday lives. There is nothing more fundamental for businesses, employees, and communities than to have stability on the economic front.

Today, I am saying no more foot-dragging; no more vague promises about "soon." It is time to deliver on what we promised. Come to an agreement. Bring USMCA to the House floor, and let's get it done.

TRANSGENDER REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mr. CISNEROS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in anticipation of Transgender Remembrance Day, to honor the memory of those who have been lost to anti-transgender violence.

It is important that we recognize the bravery of those individuals who have chosen to live truthfully and openly and embrace their gender identity with the world.

We must raise up their names and remember those who have been lost to senseless violence and hate. We must shine a light on the injustice that has affected this community.

I am proud to have a transgender woman as part of my staff.

I would also like to recognize the Shah family from my district. Priya and Jaspreet Shah are the parents of a brave little transgender girl. Together, they have advocated not only for their daughter, but for the entire transgender community. Priya has come to the forefront of the Human Rights Campaign's national program to make schools safe spaces for transgender children.

We must continue to stand in solidarity with the Shah family, their daughter, and the entire transgender community and continue to work toward equality and justice for all.

SECURE OUR NATION'S ECONOMY

(Mr. STANTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the ongoing efforts to secure our Nation's economy. In Arizona, that means giving job creators, large and small, access to markets in Mexico and Canada.

Sadly, Arizona's recent trade history was shaped by State leaders who damaged our relationship with Mexico with divisive, self-defeating rhetoric and policies, such as SB 1070. That hurt our economy and cost us jobs.

So, as Phoenix mayor, I worked overtime to rebuild those relationships, leading 18 trade missions to Mexico and Canada. Our business community helped me make the case for increasing trade, and we saw results.

Since 2012, while the Nation's exports grew 0.1 percent, Phoenix's exports grew 20 percent. In 2017, trade with Mexico and Canada produced nearly \$10 billion in exports statewide.

Simply put, trade with our North American allies is essential to Arizona's economy. Now we have a real opportunity to improve these relationships through the USMCA. A new trade agreement, with improved labor standards, can provide certainty for small and medium-sized businesses.

Trade with our North American allies provides paychecks to more than 230,000 Arizona workers, and it is Congress' duty to reassert its role in U.S. trade policy.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman NEAL, and the working group for working so hard on getting this agreement done. I continue to be encouraged by the progress being made on USMCA.

PLEASANTVILLE NAACP

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, the NAACP has been at the forefront in the fight for equal educational, social, economic, and legal rights for African American communities.

The Mainland-Pleasantville NAACP branch, led by President Olivia Caldwell, has continuously fought for those things, and they recently held their annual Freedom Fund Awards Luncheon. The luncheon honored the people who fought alongside the NAACP and their efforts for equal rights.

President of Atlantic Cape Community College, Dr. Barbara Gaba, received the education award for furthering educational fulfillment in the African American community.

I would like to thank Dr. Gaba, President Caldwell, and the NAACP for their resilience in the fight for equality that not only impacts the people of south Jersey, but all Americans everywhere. We all have the same blood flowing through our veins.

May God bless them.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have a lot to say. My colleague, Mr. HICE, has a lot to do. I am going to yield to Mr. HICE so that he can speak briefly and go back to his committee.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding a quick moment.

There are few people in Washington, D.C., and in America who have had the impact of Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON. And when we think of Senator ISAKSON, no question, there are so many things that come to our mind.

Senator, you are and you have been an incredible statesman, a phenomenal leader, in Georgia, here in the United States Senate, and in our country, and we just want to say thank you for all that you have done for us.

I think, personally, when I first came to Congress, you were one of the first individuals to reach out to me and to give advice and encouragement. And to this day, every time I see you, you do that, and you will never know how much that means.

I just want to publicly state that JOHNNY ISAKSON, Senator ISAKSON, is a

hero for people all across this country. Your brilliant mind and your leadership will always be here, and we say thank you from the bottom of our heart. May God bless you and your family as you go into this next chapter.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today, my colleagues and I rise to honor the legislative legacy and the life of my good friend and colleague and fellow Georgia Bulldog, U.S. Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON.

For more than 20 years, Senator ISAKSON has served the people of Georgia in the United States Congress, tirelessly fighting for the people of Georgia.

During his tenure, Senator ISAKSON has been a bellwether for many in our delegation, both as a Member of this body and as a United States Senator. If I have heard it once, I have heard it a thousand times: Where's JOHNNY on this? What does JOHNNY think about this? Have you spoken to JOHNNY on this?

He has offered counsel that has been learned through his 40 years of public service that is invaluable to me and many of us in the Georgia delegation and throughout this Nation.

I have many personal stories about JOHNNY, some of them appropriate for the floor, some of them not. But my first recollection of Senator ISAKSON was a call that I made as a young teenager when we had a mutual friend and I needed a little help getting him through the ballot process at the fraternity house. Senator ISAKSON picked up the phone and called and, a few minutes later, the president of the fraternity walked in and said: I am not quite sure who spoke to Senator ISAKSON, but this is the way the next vote's going to go.

And that was all it took.

I can't tell you, over the last 20, or, I am sorry, I should say 30-plus years, how much you have meant to me and my family. And when I am back home, I constantly tell the people the respect our delegation and all the Members of the House and the Senate have for you. You have brought forward a sense of bipartisanship in working across the aisle for the good of all Georgians.

He has played a key role in building and maintaining his reputation, and I look forward to that special tradition continuing in the coming legislative sessions.

Public service is much more than just the service of the Member; it is also the service of the family.

Senator ISAKSON, your children, your wonderful wife, Dianne, we extend our thanks for their commitment to serve Georgia and their support of our delegation and fellow delegation members. Their impact cannot be understated, and we look forward to you enjoying more time with Dianne and your entire family as you enter your next chapter.

For decades, Senator ISAKSON and his family have faithfully served our State. His character, godliness, and